

## Message Text

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41

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SS-15

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O 061245Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7235

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BELGRADE 4422

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CASC, YO (TOTH, LASZLO)

SUBJECT: TOTH CASE

REF: BELGRADE 4301

1. TOTH'S SISTER CAME TO EMBASSY JULY 5 TO DISCUSS CASE WITH CONSUL FLEISCHER. SHE WAS NOT NEARLY AS ALARMIST ABOUT HIS MENTAL STATE AS REPORT DEPARTMENT RECEIVED FROM CONGRESSMAN JOHNSON'S OFFICE INDICATED. SHE SAID THAT TOTH HIMSELF HAD NOT MENTIONED SUICIDE, NOR HAD SHE MENTIONED SUICIDE IN TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH TOTH'S WIFE IN DENVER. SHE DID SAY THAT TOTH CONTINUED TO BE VERY NERVOUS AND DEPRESSED.

2. HIS SISTER GAVE TO CONSUL NOTE WRITTEN BY TOTH ON TOILET PAPER AND GIVEN TO HER BY HIM SURREPTITIOUSLY ON JUNE 20. NOTE READS AS FOLLOWS: "TO: CORRESPONDENT OF UPE; FROM LASZLO TOTH, MANAGER OF R AND D, GWS, DENVER, COLORADO; IN PRISON: SREMSKA MITROVICA. DEAR SIR: WE ARE TWO USA CITIZENS IN PRISON MITROVICA. AFTER EVERYTHING WE ARE GOING THROUGH, WE DECIDED TO START A HUNGER STRIKE. ALTHOUGH WE ARE APPREHENDED IN DIFFERENT TIME AND DIFFERENT PART OF YUGOSLAVIA, BESIDES BEING USA CITIZENS, OUR CASE LOOKS VERY SIMILAR, AND SHARES MANY COMMON THINGS; THERE WAS NOT INTENDED, NOR CARRIED OUT ANY CRIME; THE TRIAL

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WAS RIGGED, FRAMED AND UNFAIR; FALSE DOCUMENTS AND

STATEMENTS HAD BEEN USED; SOME STATEMENTS HAS BEEN SIGNED UNDER DURESS, ETC. WE ARE BOTH 100 PERCENT INNOCENTLY TAKEN BY INTRIGUES AND CONDEMNED FOR SEVEN AND FIVE YEARS IMPRISONMENT. APPARENTLY NOBODY IS SERIOUSLY WORKING TOWARDS STRAIGHTENING OUT THIS FLAGRANT, SHAMEFUL INJUSTICE DONE TO US. WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANNOUNCEMENT IN NEWS MEDIA EXACTLY JULY 14, 1976 ABOUT OUR INTENTION FOR HUNGER STRIKE, REASON FOR STRIKE: WE SEEK MEETING WITH U.S. AMBASSADOR IN BELGRADE AND DEPUTY OF PRESIDENT OF SFRY TITO (JOINT MEETING). TIMING: JULY 12, 1976, WRITTEN ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT INTENDED STRIKE WILL BE SENT TO PRISON AUTHORITIES. JULY 14, 1976, ANNOUNCEMENT IN THE NEWS MEDIA. JULY 20, 1976, START OF STRIKE IF THE REQUESTED MEETING IS NOT ALLOWED. I BELIEVE, SIR, YOU KNOW ABOUT MY CASE AND ABOUT ME. LET ME DESCRIBE THE (SECOND) THE OTHER GENTLEMAN IN PRISON. MIKE SEDMAK, 60, FROM SHEBOYGAN, WISCONSIN. RETIRED ARMY CAPTAIN, VETERAN OF WWII. BRONZE STAR, SILVER STAR, TWO PURPLE HEARTS, ETC. HIS PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH IS FAST DETERIORATING UNDER DURESS WE ARE (SIC). HE WAS ARRESTED DURING HIS PRIVATE TRIP. AS YOU KNOW I WAS APPREHENDED DURING MY PREARRANGED (WRITTEN) BUSINESS TRIP I WAS CARRYING OUT AS EMPLOYEE OF GREAT WESTERN SUGAR FROM DENVER CO." END OF MESSAGE.

3. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENTS'S GUIDANCE ON HANDLING OF MESSAGE.  
SILBERMAN

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## Message Attributes

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